

New Horizons Charter Academy

Board Meeting

January 31, 2019

Present – Stuart Cano, Steven Rinka, Dr. Duran, David Sams, Richard Thomas

Others Present:

Sandy Mejia, Guillermo Gomez, Geetha Huma, Karen Guevarra (Parent), Jannet Curiel (Parent In Action President), (Teachers)-Charlotte Cuevas & Doreen Cohen

Closed Session – 4pm

Open Session – 4:45pm

Meeting Commenced at: 04:45PM

Public Comment

Karen Guevarra – I had a meeting today with Mr. Thomas and Mr. Gomez and two other educators. I felt it very unprofessional that Mr. Thomas left the meeting without speaking to any of the challenges my daughter is facing. I had a similar situation last year with my other daughter, but she is making progress with Ms. Cohen this year. She was actually flunked, any her investigation was never shared with me. I need to know where I can move this situation forward and escalate my issues. I am seeking answers, a response and would like to leave you with two documents to address my concerns.

Charlotte Cuevas / Doreen Cohen – I am here with Ms. Cohen and I believe I am speaking on behalf of all the teachers in our K-2 team. We are here to voice our concerns with the YPI program and their supervision of students after school. Last Thursday, I myself was nearly run over in the hallway as an unsupervised student running at full speed ran into my classroom door. We took him upstairs and tended to his injuries, but he was severely hurt. This type of thing happens all the time. I sent my concerns to Mr. Thomas via e-mail, and one week later, he admitted to me yesterday in a teacher meeting that he never read my e-mail. How are we supposed to have our concerns met, when he doesn't even read our e-mails.

Approval of the Previous Board Meeting Minutes (December 2018)

- Motion made to approve – David Sams
- Second – Dr. Duran
- Motion Carries (3 – 0 vote)

Audit Engagement Letter – We are seeking approval for future audits which will be submitted to LAUSD, a requirement we have to demonstrate our capacity to govern the school in several strategic areas, this is a document we ask you to approve every year. The Independent audit will be conducted by Vavrinek, Trine, Day and Co., LLP. The audit will be conducted to review internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements. The estimated cost of audit will be \$7,500 for the audit and \$950 for the information returns. The audit will begin approximately May 16 and report issue no later than December 15 for 2018-2019 school year review.

- Motion made to approve – David Sams
- Second – Dr. Duran
- Motion Carries (3 – 0 votes)

Monthly Financial Report

Charter Impact (*Geetha Huma*) – The monthly financials for December demonstrate a slight decrease in ADA. There will be a cash surplus of \$96,000 for the year. We are still projecting a revenue of 3.9 million. The average attendance for this month was 298 students, slightly below your intended projection at this time.

Richard Thomas – “We have a dip in attendance, because it is the holiday time, and we routinely have many students return to Armenia and Mexico, we leads to a dip in our attendance near the holidays,

Geetha Huma (Charter Impact) – We are still projecting 3.9 million in overall expenses.

Of the expenses that went out for the month of December, these are the checks that went out to the vendors, please scan and feel free to ask me, if you have any questions.

David Sams – “What is the very large IRS Federal Tax?”

Richard Thomas – “That number is fixed, and for the payroll tax. You should see what we pay in CALSTRS, which is for certificated retirement accounts..”

Approval of the December Financials

- Motion made to approve – David Sams
- Second – Dr. Duran
- Motion Carries (3-0 votes)

Richard Thomas – The EPA funding plan will need to be submitted and approved by the Board. We are going to have to post this to our school web site, ensuring that we did not spend any of these funds on administrative salaries or administrative cost. The EPA spending plan will be used towards teacher salaries and benefits.

Approval of the Education Protection Account (EPA) Spending Plan

- Motion made to approve – David Sams
- Second – Dr. Duran
- Motion Carries (3-0 vote)

Executive Report

After School Program – I have met with the Director who oversees our site, we are fortunate to have an after school program. We did not qualify for one the first year, but we kept applying and we qualify for one now. YPI is within the state ratio of instructors to students per state guidelines. I held a meeting with the YPI Director, Vanessa Gonzalez regarding several concerns brought from meeting with teachers and Mr. Gomez, I informed Ms. Gonzalez that going forward it is expected that the site coordinator or designee, will position themselves in the hallway to provide additional supervision because of the need to have our hallway supervised, at all times, to insure a safe environment. We do not supervise their

staff, but we do provide feedback to their staff to ensure that through direct communication, we can establish immediate maintained results. They are tracking all the incidents that occur after school, as do we. We are increasing our levels of supervision, to ensure that students are doing the right thing. We have a behavioral matrix that we follow, to make sure students know how to act at school.

David Sams – If we do not have an improvement in our safety, can we contract another vendor?

Richard Thomas – We began YPI in middle school and expanded the program to the elementary program. Certainly with the added communication, we will look forward toward an improvement in school safety, possibly several improvements, but if those do not come to fruition, we could eventually change vendors.

Enrollment Preferences Board Resolution from December 2018 Meeting – The Board voted at December 2018 Board Meeting to adjust the Enrollment Preferences as required by SB740 CSFA Program. These changes were accepted by CSFA. The LAUSD Charter Schools Division requested that New Horizons Charter Academy submit a material revision to the Charter Petition to change the enrollment preferences as written based on the Board Resolution. I contacted our legal counsel Young, Minney and Corr regarding this request by LAUSD. The response is as follows:

1. The NCHA Board Resolution does not actually change the admission preferences, it simply revises the interpretation of the preferences. Such revision is a policy matter and not a change to the charter. The NHCA charter had a preference for students who reside in District boundaries, which necessarily includes students who attend or reside in the attendance area of the elementary school where NHCA is located. NHCA simply revised the interpretation of that preference to include a carve out for students who attend or reside in the attendance area of the elementary school where NHCA is located.
2. NHCA is eligible for the PCSGP based on its own student population, and does not need to rely on the free and reduced-price meal student population in the local elementary school. The interpretation of the preference is only a backstop measure, in the event there is an error in CALPADS reporting that does not properly capture NHCA's student enrollment. That was the case for 2017-18. This change in interpretation is a trigger only, and will only be used in the event of an error in CALPADS reporting.
3. CSFA required NHCA to adopt a Board Resolution consistent with what NHCA sent to you. The NHCA Board did so, and CSFA is satisfied that NHCA meets eligibility requirements for the Facility Grant. Accordingly, there is no need to actually change the NHCA charter.

This response will be shared with the Charter Schools Division to further discuss the necessity to submit a material revision.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM